

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year ending December 31st. 1945.

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To the Chairman and Members of Consett Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Macdonald and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my 21st. Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your Area. The year under review has been satisfactory from the statistical aspect, as will be seen from the data provided.

Many changes have occurred in your District during the last 21 years, not the least being the conversion of insanitary out-office accommodation to the W.C. System, no less than 1,070 new W.C's. being installed between 1925 and 1936, making the old Consett practically all water-carriage system. Now the war is ended it is hoped to make similar progress with the insanitary out-offices that came into the district after Amalgamation. The following comparisons between figures for 1925 and 1945 may be of interest. It is impracticable to mention all the improvements effected in this period but food, milk and meat inspection are at a higher standard than ever before attained, and though progress may not be spectacular it is steadily maintained.

	<u>1925.</u>	<u>1945.</u>
Area in Acres	1,503	9,840
Population, Census 1921 and 1931	12,155	38,046
Number of inhabited houses	2,652	10,170
Rateable Value	£56,362	£159,062
Sum represented by penny rate	£235	£593
Birth-rate	23.6	19.6
Death-rate	13.6	12.3
Infant Mortality-Rate	115.9	48.9
Tuberculosis Death-Rate	0.75	0.48
Zymotic Death-Rate	0.91	0.08

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. G. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,  
Villa Real.  
September 6th. 1946.



# CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1945.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

#### Summary of General and Vital Statistics.

Area in acres			9,840
Population (Census 1931)			38,046
Population (estimated by the Registrar-General 1945)			35,310
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at the end of 1945			10,170
Rateable value			£159,062
Sum represented by a penny rate			£593
Births during 1945 - 694	Birth-rate		19.6
Deaths during 1945 - 435	Crude Death-rate		12.3
Infant Mortality Rate 1945			48.9
Tuberculosis Death-rate 1945			0.48
Pulmonary - 0.39. Non-Pulmonary - 0.09.			
Symptotic Death-rate 1945			0.08

#### Consett Urban District.

The original town of Consett developed about a century ago when ironstone was first worked in the district and houses for workmen were required, and these were built on the high land forming the East Bank of the Derwent Valley. In 1865 when it was constituted a Local Board Division it had a population of about 7,000, and an area of 1,005 acres. Following a public enquiry in 1919 a further 498 acres were added and the acreage was increased to 1,503. At the time of the 1921 Census the population had increased to 12,155. Following the operation of the Local Government Act, 1929, the present Urban District came into being in April, 1937, with an area of 9,840 acres and a then population of 37,340.

The highest points of the town are approaching 900 ft. above sea level, and the land slopes steeply on one side to the River Derwent which forms its boundary for a considerable distance, extending from the pleasant spot known as Allansford to a point near Lintz Ford. The woods and pleasant grounds by the river-side form a natural beauty spot and situated at the foot of the main road from the town to the valley is Shotley Bridge, formerly popular as a Spa and holiday centre. Following the course of the river towards its junction with the Tyne one passes (still in Consett U.D.) through Ebchester, Low Westwood and Hamsterley Colliery. The former place is of interest as it is built right on the site of an old Roman Station - on the Watling Street Roman Highway - with other Roman sites Lanchester to the South and Corbridge to the North on the same highway. The Urban District of Stanley and the Rural District of Lanchester bound the remaining sides of the District.

#### Social Conditions and Industries.

There are many voluntary and official social activities in the district and close touch is maintained with them by this Department, and their co-operation secured when this is needed. The closest association with the various officers of the County Council operating in the area is maintained, and whilst some overlapping is inevitable with the present system of dual Health Services, every effort is made





to reduce this to a minimum.

The officers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Assistance Board, Public Assistance Committee etc. in the area, are only too willing to co-operate in social work and we are often indebted to them for their assistance. During the war years the district has been prosperous and shortage of labour, rather than unemployment (of which we formerly had a tragic experience) has been the rule. Housing shortage, Overcrowding, Billeting etc. have caused their difficulties which still remain, but on the whole these have been faced with a philosophy that makes one proud to be associated with such a people. We do not claim to be the only town that has faced difficulties, many have had to make much greater sacrifices, but it is quite certain that very few could surpass the purely voluntary activities undertaken by so many of our residents.

The chief industries are iron and steel production, coal-mining, coke making, brick making and quarrying. Efforts are being made to attract other industries to the district, as there will be a great need to find some outlet for female workers in the post-war reconstruction. The main employers of labour are the Consett Iron Co. Ltd., who have very large interests in this and surrounding districts. They are large property owners in the area, and our work frequently brings us in contact with their various officials, whose courtesy and co-operation is gratefully acknowledged.

### Special Causes of Sickness, Effects of Occupations etc.

No special cause of sickness prevailed during 1945, apart from Scabies, which is dealt with elsewhere in this report. There is no evidence from statistics to show that these industries have any detrimental effect on the health of the workers, except the "Accident-rate" associated with heavy industries. There is no statistical evidence to show that the health of the population has suffered as a result of food control and rationing. There are no doubt effects not shown by statistics, such as overstrain, nervous troubles, minor skin diseases etc. brought about by war work, overcrowding, lack of attention in some homes owing to the war work of women members of the household. Some of these things have a cumulative effect, and the sooner we get back to normal conditions the better for all concerned.

### Vital Statistics.

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Live Births	Legitimate	649	349	300	Birth-rate per thousand of the estimated resident population. 19.6
	Illegitimate	45	20	25	
	Totals	694	369	325	

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Still Births	Legitimate	27	16	11	Rate per thousand total births (live and still) 37.4
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	Totals	27	16	11	
Deaths from all causes		435	234	201	Death-rate per thousand of estimated resident population. 12.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes		<u>Deaths.</u>	Rate per thousand (Live and Still Births).
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis		0	
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes		0	Nil.





# Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	48.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	52.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	22.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	57
" " Measles	1
" " Whooping Cough	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2
Population estimated by the Registrar-General 1945	35,310

## Population.

The population given by the Registrar-General for 1945 is 35,310. This is a decrease of approximately 3,000 since our last census (1931) when the figure was 38,046. The figures for the last seven years are:-

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
37,420	37,040	37,040	36,210	35,320	35,050	35,310

There were 3,987 births during these years and 2,631 deaths, so that the "Natural Increase" in population was 1,356. The loss in population is to a large extent caused by war conditions, numbers of both men and women serving in the various forces, and others being directed away from the area for work elsewhere.

## Births: Birth-rate: etc.

One of the highest birth-rates for many years was recorded during 1945. The total number of births being 694 and the rate being 19.6 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.1 for England and Wales, 19.2 for 148 Smaller Towns having a resident population of 25,000 to 50,000, and 19.2 for the Administrative County. The figures and rates for the last seven years are given below, and the rates including the first great war years for 1914-1920 are shown for comparison.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Births	705	676	639	671	602	732	694
Rate	18.8	18.2	17.2	18.5	17.0	20.8	19.6
Year	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Birth-rate	30.9	24.5	23.8	22.4	22.3	27.3	31.1

The same tendency is seen during the two war periods.

- (a) A fall from a relatively high rate to a low one,
- (b) A rise to a high rate again towards the close of the period.

The fall can be accounted for by the sudden call to service of many eligible males. The rise after a period of a few years is probably explained by the increased marriage rate - fostered by separation allowances and increased economic prosperity as a result of war activities.

There is no doubt that a high birth-rate should be encouraged if we are to retain our status as a first class Power in the World.

## Deaths: Death-rate: etc.

There have been no violent changes in the crude death-rate during the war period, and much the same occurred in the years 1914-1920 as in 1939-1945. There were 435 deaths in Consett U.D. during 1945, the rate being 12.3 per 1,000 population compared with 11.4 for England and Wales, 12.3 for 148 Smaller Towns, and 11.8 for



the Administrative County.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Deaths	453	469	409	433	432	434	435
Death-rate	12.1	12.6	11.0	11.9	12.2	12.0	12.3
Year	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Death-rate	19.2	17.9	17.9	17.7	19.2	18.3	14.6

It is interesting to note that there has been no tendency to a rise in the crude death-rate in spite of the many hardships brought about as the result of the war.

Causes of Death in Consett Urban District 1945.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
All causes:-	234	201
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	11	3
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	3
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
9. Influenza	2	0
10. Measles	1	-
11. Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-	-
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	-	-
13. Cancer of Buccal cavity)	2	-
"    "    Uterus    )	-	11
14.    "    "    Stomach & Duodenum	8	4
15.    "    "    Breast	-	5
16.    "    "    all other sites	17	10
17. Diabetes	1	5
18. Inter-cranial vascular lesions	28	37
19. Heart Disease	62	47
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	9	7
21. Bronchitis	7	7
22. Pneumonia	10	6
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	4	3
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	4	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	-
26. Appendicitis	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	1	6
28. Nephritis	8	8
29. Puerperal & Post-abortion Sepsis	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-
31. Premature Birth	8	3
32. Congenital Malformity, Birth Injuries etc.	6	6
33. Suicide	2	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	-
35. Other violent Causes	8	-
36. All Other Causes	30	28

Zymotic Death-rate.

There were only 3 deaths during the year from two of the seven principal infectious diseases (1 Measles, 2 Diarrhoea) which is a very satisfactory state of affairs. When one considers the high





death-rate from Diphtheria alone in this district prior to the war years it is indeed a welcome improvement. Even in 1914 the rate was 31 times higher than in 1943. There is ample justification for pride in the achievements of our Public Health Services in such marked improvements. The rates for the last seven years are shown below and those of 1914-1920 given for comparison. The Consett U.D. rate for 1945 was 0.08. The rate for the Administrative County was 0.18 per thousand population.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Zymotic Death-rate	0.40	0.21	0.11	0.24	0.14	0.00	0.08
Year	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Zymotic Death-rate	4.37	3.0	2.10	1.11	?	1.11	1.48

### Maternal Mortality.

Probably there is no more distressing cause of death than that of a Mother during child-birth and any reduction in Maternal Mortality figures will be universally welcomed. The absence of such deaths in your District during 1945 is especially pleasant to record. The rate for the Administrative County was 2.35 per thousand total births. Detailed analysis of the causes of death show that a very large proportion of them falls into three main groups, (1) Accidents during pregnancy, (2) Toxic Conditions and (3) Haemorrhage and Sepsis. Some of these conditions can be foreseen, and every effort should be made to see that the Services provided are used. Every facility is placed at the disposal of General Practitioners by the County Councils' Scheme for the Services of Consultants, Pathological Examinations etc. when these are required. The Services of the Ante-Natal Clinics are also available to Expectant Mothers, and in these lie the best methods of Prevention. The rates for the last seven years are shown in the following table.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	1	2	5	2	0	2	0
Total	2	2	5	2	1	2	0
Rate per 1,000 Total Births	2.68	2.87	7.55	2.8	1.5	1.3	0

### Infant Mortality Rate.

There were only 34 infant deaths (under one year of age) during 1945 which coupled with a high number of births gives a comparatively low infant mortality rate of 48.9 per 1,000 live births. This rate is higher than that for England and Wales (46), 148 Smaller Towns (43) and below that of the Administrative County (50). There again is a similarity in the behaviour during the two war periods, a general tendency to a fall in the rate as the end of each period was approached. Incidentally it is interesting to see the great fall in this rate during the last 30 years - from 192 in 1914 to 49 in 1945, equivalent to a saving of 143 lives per thousand live births during the year under review compared with the earlier one. This achievement is one of which the Nation may well be proud, and is in no small measure due to the excellent provision by the State for the care of Infants and Mothers, and forms an excellent pointer to what can be accomplished by sustained and well directed effort towards a particular evil. The days of terrifically high infant mortality rates are gone, devoutly hoped by all, never to return.





The following tables gives the rates etc. during the two war periods in round figures.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Rate per 1,000 Births	72	59	66	59	46	43	49
Year	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Rate per 1,000 Births	192	118	110	100	131	81	?

#### Still Births.

There were 27 still births during 1945 all of which were legitimate. This gives a relatively high rate of 0.76 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.53 for 148 Smaller Towns, and 0.46 for England and Wales. Expressing this rate per thousand population as is the custom of the Registrar-General is probably the best means of comparing "Live" with "Still" births, but expressed per thousand total births probably gives a better guide to the trend. Both these rates are shown in the following table. Figures for the 1914-1920 period are not available.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Total Number.	36	21	23	36	34	31	27
Rate per 1,000 population	0.96	0.56	0.62	0.99	0.96	0.88	0.76
Rate per 1,000 Total Births	48.5	30.1	34.7	50.9	53.4	40.6	37.4

When one considers that at anyrate in 1945 the number of still births almost equals the number of infants dying in the first year of life, it provides food for thought. This wastage of potential lives cannot be regarded with equanimity by those concerned with Preventive Medicine. It will be seen from the figures furnished that this Still Birth rate has not been reduced like the Infant Mortality rate. The official records do not give the causes of death in these still-born infants. Syphilis we know to be one of the causes, complications of labour is another, but there is much scope for more detailed investigation into the causes of death. Meanwhile the ante-natal clinics appear to be the best line of action, and every effort should be made to encourage prospective Mothers to use these facilities to the utmost.

#### General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Staff of the Public Health Department:-

- (a) Medical Officer of Health, John G. Walker, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Offices and duties:- Wholetime Medical Officer of Health for the joint areas of the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural District Councils in accordance with the Memorandum on the duties of Medical Officers of Health and the Sanitary Officers Order 1935.

- (b) Chief Sanitary Inspector:- F. Stringfellow.  
Certificate of R.S.I. for Sanitary Inspectors.  
Certificate of R.S.I. for Meat & Food Inspectors.

- (c) Additional Sanitary Inspectors:-  
H. Walton, Certificate of S.I.B. and Meat Certificate.  
W. Telford, " " " " " "

- (d) Shops Inspector:- R. P. Jope.

- (e) Clerical Staff:- Chief Clerk - Miss P.E. Barrow.  
Clerk - W. A. Roberts.  
Junior Clerk (temporary) Miss M.Martin.

- (f) Rodent Officer:- W. L. Armstrong.

- (g) Home Visitors (Scabies etc) Miss E.A.Pickering, Miss R. Mawson.



Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The public water supply provided by the Durham County Water Board was ample during the year. A new 4" water main was laid into the village of Iveston where a poor supply had been a source of complaint for many years. This work has made a great improvement to householders and to six milk producing farms.

The supply to the Hat and Feather - West View area of Medomsley is still unsatisfactory. The Board is aware of the position and improved pressures will be provided as soon as practicable.

Fern Cottage, Knitsley and Todd Hills Farm, Castleside, formerly using private water supplies were connected up to the public mains.

Six samples of water were taken for analysis, details of results are set out below:-

	<u>Plate Count.</u>		
	at 37°C 2 days incubation Colonies per ml.	at 20°-22°C 3 days incubation Colonies per ml.	Presumptive Coliform Count.
Hearts of Oak Farm, Blackhill. Private Water Supply. December 20/45.	8 Bacteriologically this is a satisfactory sample of water.	25	0
Southfield Farm, Medomsley. December 3/45.	3 Bacteriologically this is a satisfactory sample of water.	25	0
Public Water Supply. 1, Taylors Terr. The Grove. December 3/45.	4 This is not a satisfactory sample of water.	900	11
Public Water Supply. 5, Siemens Street, Blackhill. December 3/45.	7 This is not a satisfactory sample of water.	710	17
Public Water Supply. 1, Taylors Terr. The Grove. December 20/45.	5 Some faecal pollution is indicated.	595	0
Public Water Supply. 5, Siemens Street, Blackhill. December 20/45.	6 This is not a satisfactory sample of water.	350	35

The raw water and the water going into supply are outside your Councils boundaries and no samples were obtained for bacteriological or chemical examination. No evidence of damage by plumbo solvent action has ever been noted and no samples have been submitted for this purpose.

Wherever the supply pipe from the water main to the draw off tap of a dwelling house exceeds 30 feet the Water Board require the provision of copper lined pipe.

Following amalgamation special efforts were made to secure the installation of mains water in cases where houses were served by doubtful water supplies.

So far as can be ascertained there are at present only 21 houses dependent on private sources of supply. This covers about 60 persons, and the whole of the remainder of the population is supplied direct to the houses from the mains.

The old stand pipe system has been completely eliminated.







## Drainage and Sewerage.

The main Disposal Works at Ebchester and the three smaller works at Pont, Crookhall and Knitsley have worked satisfactorily during the year. At the latter works the four sprinkler arms were renewed. Considerable trouble was experienced with several lengths of sewer on account of blockage caused by tree roots. Some 80 yards of 15" old sewer through the Spa, Shotley Bridge, and 25 yards of 9" sewer in Cemetery Road, Blackhill, were taken up, cleansed and relaid in concrete. Further work to relieve flooding was carried out by the provision of a 15" and 12" sewer at Rothley Terrace and Burdon's Cottages, Medomsley, and an overflow was fixed to the 24" main sewer in the Hall Road, Consett.

A new length of 9" sewer was laid at Barley Mill, Blackhill, and as a result 6 houses formerly discharging to a Cesspool were connected up.

In the Ebchester area three old houses discharging sewage to a nearby stream were connected to a new available length of sewer.

## Closet Accommodation.

There has been little alteration apart from the addition of new Water Closets and only four of the Conservancy type of closet were converted. Approximate details of the various types existing in the area are as follows:-

Total number of Water Closets	9,874
" " " Ash Closets	601
" " " Ashpit Privies	489

There are, therefore, about a thousand water closet conversions required and your Council is fully alive to the position. Immediately men and materials are available it is hoped that rapid progress will be made in this very essential improvement.

## Public Cleansing.

There have been no important changes in this work. The cleansing in Leadgate, Delves, Crookhall and part of the Medomsley parish is carried out by private Contractors, the remainder of the area being covered by the Council's Motor Services.

In the great majority of cases galvanised bins are provided for the storage of house refuse and these are cleared weekly.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping and special attention is given to the prevention of rats infestation.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following table gives a summary of work done under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

	Informal Notices.	Formal Notices by order of Local Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Foul Conditions	10	-	10
Structural Defects	283	15	241
Overcrowding	65	-	50
Dairies & Milkshops	4	-	4
Cowsheds	20	-	18
Bake houses	5	-	5
Slaughter-houses	2	-	2
Ashpits & Privies	9	-	9
Deposits of Refuse or Manure	14	-	14
Water Closets	33	3	32



	Informal Notices.	Formal Notices by order of Local Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Defective Yard Paving	1	-	1
Drainage Faults	123	-	120
Water Supply	7	-	6
Animals Improperly Kept	3	-	3
Defective Ash Bins Renewed	196	-	192
Other Nuisances	12	-	12
<u>Totals</u>	787	18	719

#### Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	6
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	62
Schools " " " "	Nil.

#### Factories Act, 1937.

A total of 52 inspections were made during the year and several defects of a minor nature received attention.

#### Shops Act, 1934.

76 visits were made to shops in various parts of the area. A number of improvements were effected, particulars as follows:-

Separate Closet Accommodation for Females	1
Additional Closet Accommodation	1
Extra Washing facilities	2
Defective W.C.'s. and Drainage	5
Accumulations of Refuse	2

#### Schools.

All schools in the district are provided with a public water supply. No school was closed on account of Infectious Diseases.

#### Housin .

The clamour for houses during the year has probably never been exceeded in the district, and at the earliest possible moment your Council took steps to get on with the provision of new dwellings.

At December 31st. 1945 the position was as follows:-

Hamsterley Colliery. New roads and sewers being prepared for the erection of fifty prefabricated houses.

Delves Lane Scheme. 30 permanent brick houses are in course of erection and were roofed in, a further 68 houses have foundations provided and brickwork up to damp course. Further schemes are in active preparation.

One private Contractor has three 2 bedroom houses roofed in and nearing completion.

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which the owners have given undertakings not to use the houses for human habitation	Nil.
Number of houses actually demolished	Nil.
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered unfit for habitation	Nil.





Unfortunately housing repairs continues a difficult problem as the demand for building labour and materials increases.

53 houses condemned as unfit for habitation still remain:-  
Consett 7, Blackhill 26, Shotley Bridge 7, Medomsley 2, Iveston 10, Ebchester 1.

#### Overcrowding.

Under the Housing Act, 1936, a continuous record has been kept of the overcrowding position. During the year 15 new cases have been discovered and 50 cases were abated.

By removal to Council controlled houses	3
By removal to North Eastern Housing Association houses	2
By ordinary removals	17
By reduction in family	28

There remain at the end of the year 85 cases. From various complaints and inspections made in the area it is clear that there are many other families who are living in overcrowded conditions, for example, married couples living with their parents etc., all of course as a result of the great housing shortage. We have no record of these cases which do not come within the scope of the present Act.

#### Milk Supply.

A total of 165 inspections were made of Cow byres, Dairies etc.  
At High Brooms Farm, Leadgate, extensive reconstruction was carried out to the existing byre, and new dairy and sterilizing rooms provided.

At Woody Close Farm, Iveston, a new byre was erected and improvements made to the old buildings.

At High Hamsterley Farm a new roof was provided to the main byre.

Samples of private water supplies from two milk producing farms were submitted to bacteriological analysis and in each case proved satisfactory.

6 samples of milk were taken and the analysis of 5 of these proved satisfactory. In one case the result was bad and the owner was interviewed and a further sample taken. This result showed there was no Coliform Bacilli in .001 ml. and the methylene blue test was satisfactory.

The persons registered and various licences in force under the Milk Special Designations Order are as set out below:-

Number of Cowkeepers	56
Number of farms registered as dairies	56
Other registered dairies	23
Wholesale producers only	20
Retail purveyors in the area	60
Retail purveyors from other areas	11
Accredited producers	18
Tuberculin Tested producers	4

#### Meat and Other Foods.

The Government Slaughter Houses were in continuous use throughout the year. The following table gives particulars of the various animals slaughtered, and as previously, the meat was distributed amongst the butchers in the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural Areas.

Bulls	52
Bullocks	410
Cows	620
Heifers	1,149
Calves	903
Pigs	130
Sheep	8,381
Total.	11,645





One Cow was sent in for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order 1933, and a further 404 animals classed as Casualties were brought in from farms in various areas. Details of these are as follows:-

Bulls	8
Bullocks	27
Cows	148
Hoifers	50
Calves	46
Pigs	34
Sheep	92
Total.	405

The attached sheet gives particulars of the animal carcasses and organs found to be diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption.

#### Imported Meat.

Following is a list of imported meat distributed to the trade during the year:-

Quarters of Beef	937	
Sheep & Lambs	22,209	
Cases Pork Loins	45	
Bags Boneless Pork	1,512	
Hog Sides	2,686	
Pork Cuts	180	
Veal Sides	114	
Quarters Boneless Beef	200	
Boneless Hams	100	
Mutton Sides	72	
Ox Tongue Roots	281	Lbs.
6 Lb. Tins Corned Beef	28,800	

Of these foodstuffs the following were found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption:-

95	Lbs. Frozen Beef
281	Lbs. Tongue Roots
1,119	Lbs. Corned Beef

As will be noted from the above particulars a considerable volume of meat inspection work has been carried out. The main Slaughter House in use is quite inadequate for the purpose and the examination of food carcasses is often carried out under difficult conditions.

It is quite obvious that should Central Slaughtering be undertaken as a permanent feature then premises on a very greatly increased scale and having the many necessary facilities for this important work will be essential.

#### Other Foodstuffs.

The following articles of food at retail shops, warehouses etc. were found to be unsound or unwholesome or so damaged as to be unfit for human consumption:-

<u>Tinned Goods.</u>		<u>Various Foods.</u>	
328	Tins Meat	463	Fishcakes
288	" Vegetables	200	Eggs
249	" Fish	151	Lbs. Prunes
192	" Fish Roll	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lbs. Raisins
93	" Milk	42	" Flour
78	" Rhubarb	33	" Dates
40	" Soup	25	" Dried Peaches



**CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Total Carcasses, etc., found to be unfit for human consumption during the year 1945**

	CARCASSES ETC.				LUNGS			Ox Hearts	LIVERS			HEADS		PLUCKS		Cows' Udders	Ox Stomachs and Intestines
	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Ox	Sheep	Pigs		Ox	Sheep	Pigs	Ox	Pigs	Sheep	Pigs		
Tuberculosis .....	81+ 14qrs.+ 97lbs.			1	416			16	25			180	6		1		11
Johnes Disease .....	8																6
Actinomycosis .....									1			8					1
Pyæmia .....		2															
Pneumonia .....	1		4		2												
Pericarditis .....	1																
Pleurisy & Peritonitis .....	1																
Cirrhosis .....									358					1			
Mastitis .....																166	
Swine Erysipelas .....				1													
Septic Conditions .....	17+ 2qrs.	8	10	1					1								
C. Haemangioma .....									6								
Oedema & Emaciation ...	6	1	8	2													
Parasites .....									1					32			
Dead, Moribund, Imperfect Bleeding .....			7														
Immaturity .....		3	1														
Decomposition .....					1				1			1			1		
Traumatism .....	1,444lbs.	1+ 21lbs.	3+ 56lbs.	17lbs.								1					
Septic Mastitis .....	2																
TOTALS .....	117+ 16qrs.+ 1,541lbs.	15+ 21lbs.	33+ 56lbs.	5+ 17lbs.	419			16	393			190	6	33	2	166	18





Tinned Goods.

36	Tins	Pork & Beans
32	"	Marmalade
10	"	Custard Powder
7	"	Syrup
1	"	Apples
1	"	Dried Milk
1	"	Shrimp Paste

Various Foods.

14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lbs.	Sugar
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	Sausage
18	Stones	Potatoes
13	Pkts.	Rice Pudding Mixture
1	Pkt.	Dried Eggs

Bottled Goods.

30	Jars	Jam	2	Jars	Beetroot
28	"	Piccallili	2	"	Meat Paste
24	"	Continental Mustard	8	Bottles	Sauce
4	"	Pickles			

Private Slaughtering.

In 33 cases we were notified of the slaughter of pigs for private use. These were scattered over the district and were examined in each case.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Altogether 189 visits were made to premises under this Act. There were 19 new registrations during the year, chiefly for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream. Generally the premises are well kept and only 6 minor breaches of the regulations were noted. These were remedied by the occupiers.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

During the year under review 368 inspections were made under the Act. 2 Refuse Tips and 4 Sewage Disposal Works were treated by pre-baiting and poisoning but these places were found generally to be greatly improved so far as rats infestation is concerned. Sewer maintenance treatment was carried out to some 350 of the manholes known to have been previously infested, and it is proposed to repeat this work each year in May and November.

In two instances block treatment of shopping premises was put in hand, the occupiers rendering considerable assistance, and in several cases rat proofing on a considerable scale was undertaken. In many minor cases the occupier prefers to carry out the necessary work and every possible help and advice is given.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

There were 243 notifications of infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) during 1945 compared with 484 in 1944. Measles and whooping cough were less prevalent and accounted for 128 cases of the 243. Compared with the total of 1,586 notifications in 1940, we can be satisfied with such low returns. The following table shows the number of cases notified and the numbers admitted either to isolation hospitals or already in an institution:-

Disease.	Number of Notifications.	Number admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	48	35
Diphtheria	13	11
Erysipelas	11	0
Pneumonia	43	2
Measles	117	1
Whooping Cough	11	0
Para-typhoid	1	1
Totals	243	50

Non-civilian cases are not included in these figures.



### Scarlet Fever.

There was an increase in cases compared with 1944, 48 cases against 15. The type of disease was mild and generally free from complications. There were no deaths. About 25% of the cases were successfully treated at home with no ill effects and "return" cases were absent.

### Diphtheria.

There were 13 cases notified during 1945. Details are as follows:-

4 were over 15 years of age  
9 " " 5 and under 15 years of age  
No cases under 5 years of age

In the 5 - 15 group 0 were immunised, 9 were non-immunised.

There were no deaths from this disease during 1945, which for the second year in succession is a record for your district. The following table gives the cases notified and the number of deaths annually since 1927 in the area now constituting Consett Urban District. Figures for the years prior to 1937 are composite figures based on those of the separate areas as far as records permit:-

Year	Cases Notified (Resident population)	Deaths
1927	95	9
1928	129	11
1929	140	6
1930	141	5
1931	49	2
1932	60	2
1933	183	11
1934	234	16
1935	150	15
1936	164	16
1937	180	15
1938	154	14
1939	73	11
1940	10	3
1941	10	1
1942	13	2
1943	22	2
1944	27	0
1945	13	0

### Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign.

The results of the measures taken have been satisfactory. The adjusted figures at the end of 1945 were:-

Children under 5 years receiving 2 doses of A.P.T. 1,461 = 48.1%  
" 5 - 15 " " " " " " 4,737 = 75.9%

### Scabies.

The scheme for the treatment of scabies first commenced in June 1942 and some difficulties were experienced. It is now accepted without question as part of the normal public health service, and little or no opposition is met with from those concerned. There were 533 cases and contacts, involving 92 families dealt with during 1945, a decrease on the figures for 1944. There were 27 cases of reinfestation among these cases and 646 visits were made to the families concerned.





Tuberculosis.

The number of new notifications during 1945 was 54. The position is shown in the following table, which gives the notifications etc. since 1938:-

Year	Total Notif- icat- ions	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Deaths	Recovered	Removed from Area
1938	49	23	26	27	13	6
1939	49	35	14	23	-	4
1940	39	25	14	13	10	6
1941	39	26	13	18	10	7
1942	39	17	22	12	4	7
1943	43	31	12	24	3	8
1944	77	45	32	18	5	4
1945	54	34	20	28	19	4
Totals	389	236	153	163	64	46

The state of the register at the beginning of 1938 was 99 pulmonary and 85 non-pulmonary cases, at the end of 1945 the corresponding figures were 171 and 143.

The housing of tubercular families has received considerable attention in your district for many years, and whilst war conditions have slowed up the process of rehousing, owing to the cessation of building, a number of families in bad circumstances have been dealt with and the Housing Department provided with a list of suitable cases for rehousing as circumstances permit. Eight families were so dealt with in 1945.

Tuberculosis Death-rate.

This rate in 1945 was 0.48 per thousand population, a fall from 0.79 in 1944 which was the highest rate for some years. It is lower than the rate for the Administrative County which was 0.66. The tendency to an increased number of notifications and to an increased death-rate from this disease has been noticeable during the war years, and no doubt the hardship of war conditions which has affected civilians as well as service personnel during the last seven years has a good deal to do with this increase. There is a large scheme for mass radiography in operation for the early deletion of this disease, as it is in the earliest stages that the prospects of arresting or curing the complaint lies. More radiographic units are becoming available and the scheme is being pressed forward as rapidly as possible. All contacts of known cases should be periodically examined especially members of the same family. Housing Conditions, Nutrition, Working Conditions and many other factors play their part in this scourge, and there is great scope for action in many of these matters before we can say all possible steps have been taken to combat the conditions predisposing to tuberculosis.

The rates for the last seven years are shown in the following table, also the separate rates for the Respiratory and Non-respiratory type.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Tuberculosis	0.66	0.43	0.51	0.58	0.67	0.79	0.48
Death-rate							
Pulmonary	0.61	0.30	0.41	0.34	0.61	0.51	0.39
Non-pulmonary	0.05	0.13	0.10	0.24	0.06	0.28	0.09





### Notifications of Tuberculosis.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1938	23	26	49
1939	35	14	49
1940	25	14	39
1941	26	13	39
1942	17	22	39
1943	31	12	43
1944	45	32	77
1945	34	20	54

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the beginning of 1938 was 184 (99 Pulmonary and 85 Non-Pulmonary). The figures at the end of 1945 were, total cases 314 made up of 171 Pulmonary and 143 Non-Pulmonary, increases of 72 and 58 respectively.

There have been 133 deaths from Tuberculosis of all forms in the District 1939-1945, equal to 4.3% of the total deaths.

### Health Education.

The Journal "Better Health" together with a local inset was circulated during the year to Youth Movements, Schools etc., throughout the district with useful results judging by appreciations received. Your Medical Officer of Health addressed various meetings on health topics as occasion warranted, particular attention being paid to the subject of Venereal Diseases.

